

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

PATENT AND TRADEMARK
DIVISION

PATENT

2005 JUN 16 AM 9:30
I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop 16, Director - US Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 13, 2005
Date

Laura Turner
Laura Turner

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Alessandro Zafarana et al.
Application No. : 09/982,132
Filed : October 16, 2001
For : MANAGING SYSTEM AND SYNCHRONIZATION METHOD
FOR A PLURALITY OF VRM-TYPE MODULES

Examiner : Albert C. Wang
Art Unit : 2115
Docket No. : 856063.715
Date : June 13, 2005

Mail Stop 16
Director - US Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

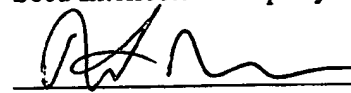
REQUEST FOR REFUND

Director:

Applicants hereby request that the Patent and Trademark Office refund \$450 of a fee that was charged to Deposit Account No. 19-1090 on April 12, 2005. In the Office Action dated December 27, 2004, the Examiner indicated that a response was due in 3 months, as shown on the attached Office Action Summary, making the due date March 27, 2005 (Sunday). The response was filed on March 28, 2005 (Monday), therefore, no Extension of Time was necessary.

Please credit the refund to Deposit Account No. 19-1090, referencing our Docket No 856063.715.

Respectfully submitted,
Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Robert Iannucci
Registration No. 33,514

RXI:lmr

Enclosures:

Postcard
Transmittal Form
Copy of Office Action dated December 27, 2004

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900 / Fax: (206) 682-6031
C:\NrPortbl\iManage\LAURAT\600551_1.DOC



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,132	10/16/2001	Alessandro Zafarana	856063.715	9379

500 7590 12/27/2004

SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC
701 FIFTH AVE
SUITE 6300
SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092

RECEIVED

JAN 03 2005

SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW GROUP PLLC

EXAMINER

WANG, ALBERT C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2115

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2004

Response
Mar. 27 2005

ENTERED IN DOCKET

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/982,132	ZAFARANA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert Wang	2115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Original claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-6 and 13-15, drawn to output responsive power supply regulation, classified in class 323, subclass 265.
 - II. Claims 6-12, drawn to overvoltage protection of electrical devices, classified in class 361, subclass 43.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Invention Groups I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Group I has separate utility such as active feedback circuitry for droop regulation and current sharing of voltage regulators, Group II has separate utility such as synchronization of multiple voltage regulators to cope with overload of a single voltage regulator. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

Art Unit: 2115

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

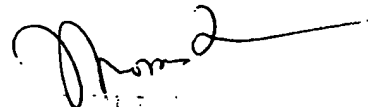
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert Wang whose telephone number is 571-272-3669. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

aw

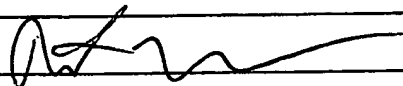
December 13, 2004




TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/982,132
	Filing Date	October 16, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Alessandro Zafarana
	Art Unit	2115
	Examiner Name	Albert C. Wang
	Attorney Docket No.	856063.715

2005 JUN 16 AM 9:30

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement; Form PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Cited References <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 C.F.R. 1.52 or 1.53 <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (<i>Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (<i>please identify below</i>): <u>Copy of OA dated 12/27/2004</u> _____ _____ _____
Remarks _____		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC	Customer Number 00500	
Signature			
Printed Name	Robert Iannucci		
Date	June 13, 2005	Reg. No.	33,514

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.		
Signature		
Typed or printed name	Laura Turner	Date: June 13, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
C:\NPort\B\Manage\LAURA\600554_1.DOC



4-29-05

1 PM 7/15

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV529826768US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Alessandro Zafarana et al.
Application No. : 09/982,132
Filed : October 16, 2001
For : MANAGING SYSTEM AND SYNCHRONIZATION METHOD
FOR A PLURALITY OF VRM-TYPE MODULES

Examiner : Albert C. Wang
Art Unit : 2115
Docket No. : 856063.715
Date : March 28, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 27, 2004, the applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-6 and 13-15, for examination at this time.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

04/12/2005 CCURTIS 00000001 191090 09982132
A FC:1252 450.00 CR

Adjustment date: 07/22/2005 SDIRETA1
04/12/2005 CCURTIS 00000001 191090 09982132
01 FC:1252 450.00 CR

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☒ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☒ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.